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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10 /055 W
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P 011525Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3590
DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED BUDAPEST 2053

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, HU
SUBJECT: AMERICAN COUNCIL HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1. INAUGURAL MEETING OF "AMERICAN COUNCIL" OF THE HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (HCC) HELD IN BUDAPEST JUNE 30 AT HCC HEADQUARTERS. HCC PRESIDENT ODON KALLOS PRESIDED OVER ORGANIZING SESSION WITH DEPUTY MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE, BELA SZALAI, AND AMBASSADOR MCAULIFFE ON ROSTRUM AND SOME EIGHTY SENIOR HUNGARIAN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH U.S. -HUNGARIAN TRADE IN ATTENDANCE.

2. JOSZEF MOLNAR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR TANNIMPEX (FORMER HUNGARIAN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON), AND ISTVAN SOLTESZ, GENERAL DIRECTOR CSEPEL IRON AND STEEL WORKS, WERE ELECTED CO-CHAIR-

MEN OF THE COUNCIL. ISTVAN ELIAS OF HCC APPOINTED SECRETARY.

3. IN THEIR OPENING REMARKS BOTH KALLOS AND SZALAI DEPLORED LACK OF MFN BUT ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANT GROUNDWORK COUNCIL MUST LAY TO ASSURE MAXIMIZATION OF HUNGARIAN EXPORT EFFORT WHEN POLITICAL HURDLE IS OVERCOME. KALLOS STATED THAT HE LOOKS TO BUREAU OF EAST WEST TRADE (BEWT) TO ASSIST HCC UB COORDINATING ITS ACTIVITIES WITH U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (USCC) AND WITH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL CHAMBERS.

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4. IN LOW KEY REMARKS MCAULIFFE EMPHASIZED TANGIBLE

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IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS DESPITE LACK OF MFN: PARTICIPATION BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND AMERICAN FIRMS IN 1975 BUDAPEST INTERNATIONAL SPRING FAIR, INITIATION OF PANAM SERVICE TO BUDAPEST, OFFICE APPLICATIONS BY FNCB/DOW/ SINGER, PLUS LATEST SPATE OF RANKING BUSINESS VISITORS. MCAULIFFE ASSURED HUNGARIAN HOSTS AND BUSINESSMEN THAT AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST STANDS READY AND WILLING AT ALL TIMES TO FACILITATE TWO-WAY TRADE.

5. AT SMALL GATHERING IN HIS PRIVATE OFFICE JUST PRIOR TO FORMAL MEETING KALLOS MOST THOUGHTFULLY SHARED WITH MCAULIFFE AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER COPY OF HUNGARIAN COUNCIL PROGRAM OF USCC HELD IN WASHINGTON JUNE 27. MCAULIFFE THANKED KALLOS AND COMMENDED HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR PROMPT SUPPORT OF ITS TRADE OFFICIALS IN BUDAPEST.

6. CHAIRMAN MOLNAR ADVISED FIRST SESSION THAT HE AND SECRETARY ELIAS WOULD IN NEXT FEW WEEKS CIRCULATE AGENDA AND WORKING PAPERS TO MEMBER SHIP OF "AMERICAN COUNCIL" FOR COMMENT, STUDY AND CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION PROGRAM. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS WASHINGTON'S COMMENTS ON JUNE 27 MEETING OF USCC'S MEETING OF HUNGARIAN COUNCIL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUDAPE02053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750228-1108
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750793/aaaadezo.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN COUNCIL HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TAGS: BEXP, HU
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006